

CLAIMS

- 1 1. An electronic device with a keypad on a substantially planar surface
2 comprising:
3 a first key with
4 an indented edge in the substantially planar surface,
5 a first protruded edge in the substantially planar surface,
6 a first alphanumeric label associated with the first key, and
7 a second alphanumeric label associated with the first protruded edge
8 of the first key;
9 a second key with a protruded edge in the substantially planar surface
10 adjacent to the indented edge of the first key; and
11 a third key with an indented edge in the substantially planar surface
12 adjacent to the first protruded edge of the first key.
- 1 2. An electronic device according to claim 1 wherein the first key further
2 comprises:
3 a second protruded edge in the substantially planar surface;
4 a third protruded edge in the substantially planar surface; and
5 an angle formed by lines between a center of the first protruded edge and
6 centers of the second protruded edge and the third protruded edge is greater than
7 approximately forty-five degrees.
- 1 3. An electronic device according to claim 2 wherein the angle is less than
2 approximately ninety degrees.
- 1 4. An electronic device according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 a priority routine that enters a character associated with the first
3 alphanumeric label when the first key is held for less than a first toggle period.

- 1 5. An electronic device according to claim 4 wherein the first alphanumeric
2 label represents a number.
- 1 6. An electronic device according to claim 4 wherein the priority routine
2 enters a character associated with the second alphanumeric label when the first
3 key is held for more than the first toggle period.
- 1 7. An electronic device according to claim 6 wherein the second alphanumeric
2 label represents a non-numeric character.
- 1 8. An electronic device according to claim 7 wherein the second alphanumeric
2 label represents a letter.
- 1 9. An electronic device according to claim 7 wherein the second alphanumeric
2 label represents a space.
- 1 10. An electronic device according to claim 4 wherein the priority routine
2 enters a character associated with the second alphanumeric label when the first
3 key is held for less than a second toggle period that is greater than the first toggle
4 period.
- 1 11. An electronic device according to claim 10 wherein the priority routine
2 enters a character associated with a third alphanumeric label when the first key is
3 held for more than the second toggle period.

1 12. A keypad, on a surface having a substantially planar region, comprising:
2 a first key with
3 an indented edge in the substantially planar region,
4 a first protruded edge in the substantially planar region,
5 a first alphanumeric label associated with the first key, and
6 a second alphanumeric label associated with the first protruded edge
7 of the first key;
8 a second key with a protruded edge in the substantially planar region
9 proximate to the indented edge of the first key; and
10 a third key with an indented edge in the substantially planar region
11 proximate to the first protruded edge of the first key.

1 13. A keypad according to claim 12 wherein the first key further comprises:
2 a second protruded edge in the substantially planar region;
3 a third protruded edge in the substantially planar region; and
4 an angle formed by lines between a center of the first protruded edge and
5 centers of the second protruded edge and the third protruded edge is greater than
6 approximately forty-five degrees.

1 14. A keypad according to claim 13 wherein the angle is less than
2 approximately ninety degrees.

1 15. A keypad according to claim 13 further comprising:
2 a fourth key with an indented edge in the substantially planar region
3 proximate to the second protruded edge of the first key.

1 16. A keypad according to claim 15 wherein the first key, the second key, the
2 third key, and the fourth key have approximately the same shape.

1 17. A keypad according to claim 12 wherein the first key, the second key, and
2 the third key have approximately the same shape.

1 18. A keypad according to claim 12 comprising:
2 a first label associated with the first key.

1 19. A keypad according to claim 18 wherein the first label represents a numeric
2 character.

1 20. A keypad according to claim 18 further comprising:
2 a second label associated with the first key.

1 21. A keypad according to claim 20 wherein the second label represents a non-
2 numeric character.